

Art in General was founded by artists in 1981 in New York City. It organizes ground-breaking exhibitions; public programs that focus on critical and timely issues in artistic and curatorial practice; and is home to a residency program that supports artists, curators and arts writers. Art in General is well-known for supporting diverse and visionary artists early on in their careers, most often assisting them with the production and presentation of new work, from Glenn Ligon to Marina Abramovic, Rirkrit Tiravanija, Allora & Calzadilla, Sharon Hayes, Postcommodity and countless others.

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Imaginary Explosions **Caitlin Berrigan**

An Art in General New Commission
September 5–November 14, 2019



Curated by Laurel Ptak
September 5–November 14, 2019

Art in General is pleased to present the first solo exhibition in New York by artist Caitlin Berrigan as part of its New Commissions Program from September 5–November 14, 2019. In our urgent era of climate crisis, her work investigates how deep time and interspecies communication might assist us in radical planetary transformation. A multimedia installation comprised of video, sculpture and communication instruments, *Imaginary Explosions* explores what other presents and futures become possible once we begin to think beyond the framework of the human.

1
Imaginary Explosions, Episode 1
2018
2k HD video, color, sound
11:21 (on loop)

2
Bilateral Seismic Communication Instrument
2019
Wood, pigment print, tactile transducers, media players, 4-channel composition by Yun Ingrid Lee from sonified seismic activity of Eyjafjallajökull
88:00 (on loop)

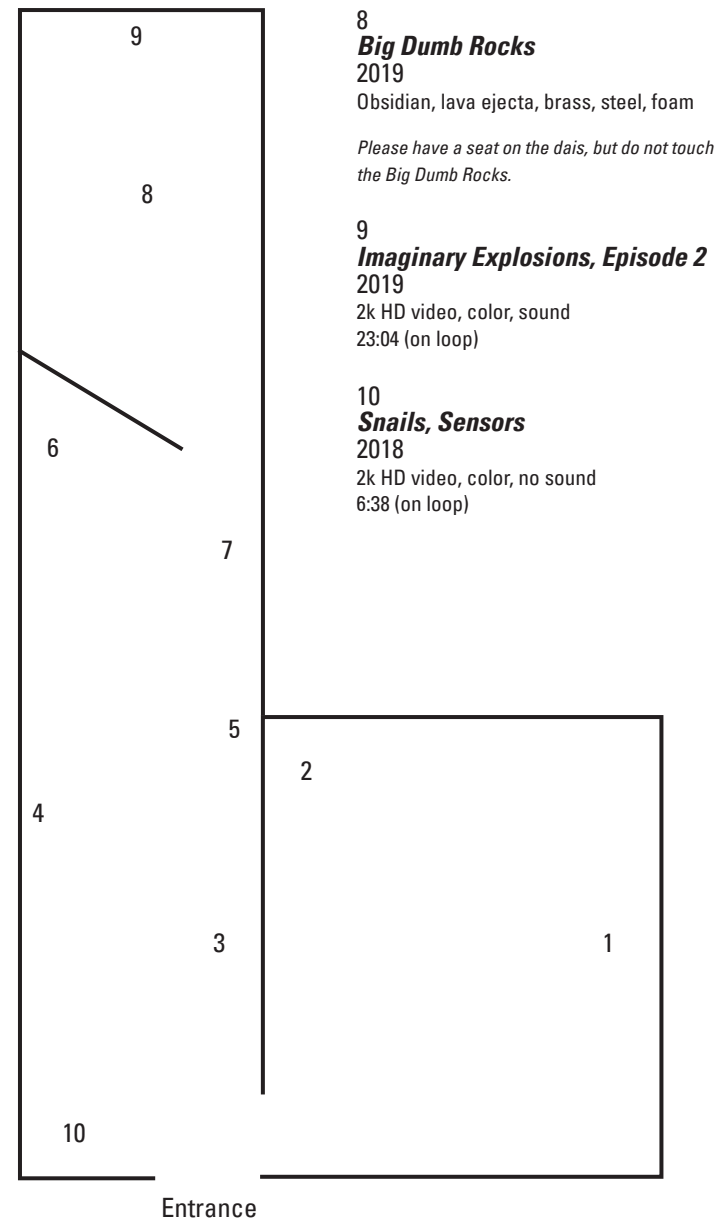
Gently touch or recline your body onto the Seismic Communication Instrument. Stay a while. This work uses bilateral stimulation of the two hemispheres of the brain through rapidly alternating visual, tactile and aural stimuli on either side of the body, and producing a calming effect upon the nervous system. This technique is commonly employed in somatic therapy to re-orient the plasticity of the nervous system to new neural pathways.

3
Becoming Mineral
2018
2k HD video, color, no sound
7:33 (on loop)

4–6
Mineral Signals (obsidian, basalt, pumice)
2018
Multi-channel 2k HD video, color, no sound
0:27 (on loop)

7
Vistas
2018
Digital elevation topographical rendering of Eyjafjallajökull, Iceland, pigment print on neoprene

Exhibition Map



8
Big Dumb Rocks
2019
Obsidian, lava ejecta, brass, steel, foam

Please have a seat on the dais, but do not touch the Big Dumb Rocks.

9
Imaginary Explosions, Episode 2
2019
2k HD video, color, sound
23:04 (on loop)

10
Snails, Sensors
2018
2k HD video, color, no sound
6:38 (on loop)

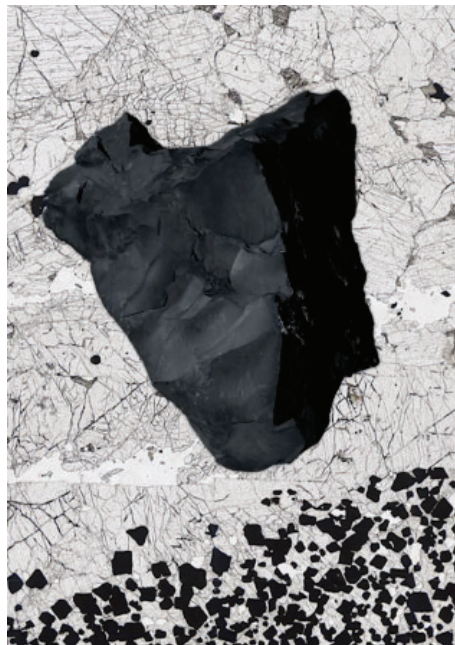
Imaginary Explosions

At the center of Caitlin Berrigan: *Imaginary Explosions* are two episodic, science fiction videos that follow an affiliation of transfeminist scientists operating in communication with the desires of the mineral earth to simultaneously erupt all volcanoes. As they traverse geological sites across place and time, they attempt to divest technoscientific instruments of their military and corporate power, in order to re-embody them towards alternative cosmologies. Co-conspiring with the videos' characters—who are artists and scholars whose real-life work pushes the very limits of science and culture—Berrigan presents *Imaginary Explosions* as an act of mutual alliance, climate reparation and cosmology creation.

Trained at MIT, the artist's practice has long questioned how technoscientific tools can be re-inhabited by collective imagination as well as queer and decolonial paradigms that emphasize the value of embodied forms of knowledge. Because such technologies remain necessary for us to respond effectively to massive ecosystem change, Berrigan insists that better grasping how these information systems influence, build and shape our world may ultimately allow us to inhabit it differently.

Caitlin Berrigan works across performance, video, sculpture and text to engage with the intimate and embodied dimensions of power, politics and capitalism. Her artist's book *Imaginary Explosions* was published by Broken Dimanche Press in 2018 and her book *Unfinished State* is forthcoming from Archive Books with support from the Graham Foundation. Her work has been shown at the Whitney Museum, the Poetry Project,

Harvard Carpenter Center, Storefront for Art & Architecture, Hammer Museum, Anthology Film Archives, LACMA, Henry Art Gallery, UnionDocs and the deCordova Museum, among others. Berrigan has received grants and residencies from the Humboldt Foundation, Skowhegan, Graham Foundation, PROGRAM for Art & Architecture Berlin and Akademie Schloss Solitude. She holds a Master's in visual art from MIT and a B.A. from Hampshire College. She is a PhD candidate at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna, and a research affiliate of the NYU Tandon School of Engineering Technology, Culture and Society.



Caitlin Berrigan, video still from *Mineral Signals* basalt loop, 2018.



Caitlin Berrigan, video still from *Imaginary Explosions, Episode 2*, 2019.



Caitlin Berrigan, video still from *Imaginary Explosions, Episode 1*, 2018.

Credits

Imaginary Explosions, Episode 1, 2018

featuring: Yun Ingrid Lee, Rae Parnell, Caitlin Berrigan, helix pomatia snails and Eyjafjallajökull.

Original sound composition: Yun Ingrid Lee.

Voicover: Nina Støttrup Larsen. Shot on location at Gunnuhver, Eyjafjallajökull, and across Iceland; Schloss Solitude, Stuttgart, Germany.

Additional animation: Harry Sanderson and Lily Fang.

News footage: Christopher Huppertz, Roman Pech, Fedrik Holm, teleSur TV, TageshauTV, ina.fr, BBC, CNN, Sky News.

Imaginary Explosions, Episode 2, 2019

Newly commissioned video by Art in General, featuring:

Yun Ingrid Lee is a composer, performer and artist based in The Hague. Recent works

consist of lecture performances and writings on the noisiness of borders and identification in acoustic perception and histories of recording technology.

Nicole L'Huillier is an artist from Santiago, Chile, and is a PhD candidate at the MIT Media Lab. Her work explores human and non-human performativity, rituals of membranous and resonant architectures, as well as vibration and sound as construction materials for spaces, identity and agency. Nicole works at the intersection of music, art, architecture, science, science fictions and technology to challenge perceptual conventions and to open the possibility of new imaginaries.

Daniela Catrileo is a philosophy professor and writer. She is part of the Mapuche feminist collective and publisher Rangitūlewfū. She has published diverse books, among them *Río herido* (2016), *Guerra Florida* (2018) and the collective book *Niñas con Palillos* (2014). She

has participated in diverse anthologies and literary encounters in Chile and internationally. She holds workshops for literary creation and Mapuche literature, as well as teaching philosophy and gender studies.

Karen Holmberg is an archaeologist who specializes in volcanic contexts as proxies for radical environmental changes that humans have experienced for millions of years. Dr. Holmberg holds a PhD from Columbia and is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Science at New York University, Gallatin School. Her current projects focus on volcanoes in Patagonia, Naples and Mars. Her work has been supported by the Fulbright Program, Wenner-Gren Foundation, Mellon Foundation and National Geographic.

The Vilcún caves and volcanic landscape of Chaitén, Chile: a transdisciplinary conservation study of coastal Patagonian archaeology and geoheritage (National Geographic, NGS-185C-18). Principal

investigator: Dr. Karen Holmberg. Team members: Dr. Francisco Mena, Dr. Rafael Labarca, Dr. Brent Alloway, Dr. Andres Burbano, Constanza Gomez (ProCultura), Dr. Javiera Letelier.

Original compositions by Yun Ingrid Lee & Andrie van der Kuit (2019), Nampülwangulenfe / Mapunauta by Nicole L'Huillier & Daniela Catrileo (2018), Palindrome Max de Wardener (2019).

Voicover: Edwina Portocarrero. Shot on location at Chaitén, Chile; Berlin, Germany; New York City, USA.

Sound mix: Sindhu Thirumalaisamy.

Colorist: Marika Litz.

Additional Imagery & Footage: Andres Burbano (Drone), Alfredo Barroso (Underwater), United Kingdom Virtual Microscope for Earth Sciences and ALMA (ESO/NAOJ/NRAO).



Caitlin Berrigan, video still from *Imaginary Explosions, Episode 1*, 2018.



Caitlin Berrigan, video still from *Imaginary Explosions, Episode 2*, 2019.